

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: KOREA

REF: STATE 220733

1. ON SEPTEMBER 15 EMBOFF CALLED ON SHAHARYAR KHAN, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (EAST ASIA), TO DISCUSS KOREAN ISSUE AT UNGA. MFA OFFICIALS WHO NORMALLY HANDLE THIS ISSUE, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY NAIK AND OFFICE DIRECTOR AKRAM, ARE WITH PAKDEL IN MEXICO CITY AND GOING DIRECTLY FROM THERE TO NEW YORK.

2. EMBOFF NOTED USUN WILL BE DISCUSSING VARIOUS UNGA ISSUES WITH PAKDEL IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE KOREAN QUESTION, WE WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH MFA AS WELL. EMBOFF GAVE KHAN COPY OF TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID THAT GOP HAD OBVIOUSLY HOPED A "DOG FIGHT" OVER KOREA COULD BE AVOIDED DURING UPCOMING UNGA. HOWEVER, THIS SEEMED NO LONGER POSSIBLE. HE NOTED MFA FEELS THERE ARE CHANGES, SOME POSITIVE AND SOME NEGATPIE, IN THIS YEAR'S PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION, AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT
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WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT THE NORTH

KOREANS ARE MORE FLEXIBLE BEHIND THE SCENES THAN THEIR RESOLUTION WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE. HE SAID THIS IS THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO RECEIVED DURING HIS VISIT TO PYONGYANG, AN IMPRESSION HE HAS SHARED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. KHAN SAID THE MFA UNDERSTANDS FROM THE NORTH KOREANS THAT THEY BELIEVE THE BALL IS IN THE US COURT AND THEY ARE STILL WAITING FOR PROPOSALS FROM US WHOCH DOULD HELP RESOLVE THE KOREAN ISSUE.

4. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN OUR HOPE AS WELL THAT KOREA WOULD NOT BECOME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AT THE UNGA THIS SESSION. HOWEVER, ONCE THE DPRK SUPPORTERS INTRODUCED THEIR RESOLUTION, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CONFRONTATION COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. EMBOFF ADDED THAT WE HAVE APPRECIATED RECEIVING GOP VIEWS ON NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS AND ISLAMABAD'S ASSESSMENT REGARDING DPRK FLEXIBILITY. WE HAVE FORMERLY EXPRESSED OUR THANKS TO MFA FOR VIEWS AND INFORMATION WHICH GOP HAS SHARED WITH US. WE DO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT BASED ON DPRK PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION BEFORE THE UNGA THAT WE DO NOT DETECT FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR POSITION. EMBOFF ADDED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS SEATTLE SPEECH HAD STATED USG POSITION AND SUGGESTED A CONFIERENCE INCLUDING ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE TO DISCUSS WAYS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE CHOSEN TO IGNORE THIS PROPOSAL.

5. EMBOFF STATED THAT IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT AT A MINIMUM PAKISTAN WOULD ADHERE TO ITS POSITION OF LAST YEAR IN VOTING ON KOREAN ITEMS AT UNGA. KHAN DID NOT GIVE SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT BUT SAID PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IS INTERESTED IN PLAYING CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE KOREAN ISSUE, AND HE OBVIOUSLY WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION ON HOW PAKISTAN WILL VOTE DURING THE GA. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WE APPRECIATED BHUTTO'S INTEREST IN FINDING A FEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE KOREAN PROBLEM AND WE ARE CERTAIN THAT GOP REALIZED THAT ITS ABILITY TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE WAS DEPENDENT ON HOW WELL ITS POSITION AS A DISINTERESTED AND OBJECTIVE OBSERVER WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAINED. AN OBVIOUS INDICATION OF ITS POSITION WOULD BE PAKISTAN'S VOTING RECORD ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE UNGA.

6. KHAN SAID THAT IN ANY CASE MFA DID NOT THINK THE VOTES WOULD BE VERY CLOSE THIS YEAR AND THAT PAKISTAN'S INDIVIDUAL VOTE WOULD PROBABLY NOT MATTER THAT MUCH IN THE FINAL TALLY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT MERELY

A QUESTION OF THE FINAL VOTING TALLY BUT ALSO AN INDICATION OF THE STATUS OF US/PAK RELATIONS. WE CONSIDER THE KOREAN ISSUE OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND BELIEVE THE GOP SHOULD BE WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND SHOULD KNOW WE WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE HOW COUNTRIES VOTE ON THIS ISSUE AT THE UN.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE CERTAIN, AS IN THE PAST, FINAL GOP DECISION ON HOW TO VOTE ON KOREAN ISSUE AT UNGA WILL REST WITH PRIME MINISTER. WE HAVE RECENTLY NOTED, HOWEVER, A CERTAIN HESITANCY AT MFA WHICH MIGHT INDICATE THAT PRESSURES FOR THE GOP TO TAKE POSITIONS MORE FAVORABLE TO THE DPRK ARE GROWING. WE CONSEQUENTLY THINK WE SHOULD USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND PAKISTANIS OF OUR INTEREST AND CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE. USUN SHOULD DISCUSS KOREA, IN ADDITION TO OTHER ISSUES MENTIONED SEPTEL, WITH PAKDEL. EMBASSY ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER RAISE KOREAN ISSUE DURING HIS BILATERAL WITH MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED, POINTING OUT OUR INTEREST IN KOREAN ISSUE AND ENCOURAGING GOP TO, AT THE VERY LEAST, KEEP ITS POSITION UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR.
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